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among the Kirei, who had meanwhile become to some extent Mongolized.[1]

To the south-west of the Kirei, in Kulja and in the western part of Chinese Turkestan, on the slopes of the Tian-Shan, live remnants of various Turanian Turks, sometimes called *Kashgarians*, many of whom are perhaps the direct descendants of the old Uigur, and possibly have also a strain of the pre-Turkic Aryan population of which traces are still to be found in Central Asia. In language, and probably in physical type, they are among the purest Turanians. Most of them, especially those who are Chinese subjects, are Mahometans. They are chiefly cattle-breeders. Such are the *Yerlik*, the *Kashgarlik*, and the *Yetisherlik*. Those subject to Russia number some 54,000 (in 1911). Since the great upheaval caused by the conquests of Jinghis Khan, and the migrations which followed, these people have remained stationary to a degree impossible anywhere but in the heart of the Asiatic continent, but it is not impossible that under a helpful and sympathetic government all of them, whether Russian or Chinese subjects, might awake to play their part in the future history of Asia.

The country to the east of the region occupied by the Chern 'Tatars' or Altaians, and to the south of that occupied by the Abakan 'Tatars', i.e. that part of the Yeniseisk Government between the Sayan Mountains and the Tannu Ola range, is called Uriankhai, and its 100,000 inhabitants are usually grouped together under the same name, Uriankhai, sometimes in its Chinese form, *Uriangut*. The northern part of the country, along the River Ussa, began to be colonized

[1] While Vambéry and Cahun reckon the Kirei as Turks, Skrine and Ross reckon them as Mongols. See note to p. 72.

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by the Russians in 1856, and was practically annexed by them in 1886. The whole country became almost independent of China after Mongolia declared its independence in 1914, and the old Russian Government, intending to occupy this rich pasture land, had begun to colonize it energetically. This aroused some opposition among the natives, who, having scarcely felt their dependence on China, were not prepared to give up their best lands to the Russian Colonization Committee. Many Uriankhai have for the last three years been moving in clan order, with all their herds, into the steppes of Northern Mongolia. This is, in fact, the most recent *en masse* migration in Central Asia. It has ceased, however, since the Russian Revolution, owing to the influence exercised by Siberian scholars and public men, such as G. Potanin and A. Adrianoff, in the protection of the rights of the natives.[1]

The Uriankhai are sometimes called *Soyot* (sing. *Soyan*, from the clan-name *Saya*). But it is not certain whether this name ought to be applied to all of them. The name by which they call themselves in the North is *Tuba*.

According to the East Turkic scholar Katanoff, the language of the Uriankhai is Turko-Tatar,[2] but of course they are now mixed to a great extent with the Mongols. It must be remembered that Castrén and some of his followers are inclined to see in the Uriankhai members of the original Samoyed-Yeniseian race, who mixed with the Turks and adopted a Turkic language.[3]

[1] See articles in *Sibirskaya Jisn*, Feb. 26, 1916, May 3, 1917.

[2] E. K. Yakovleff, *Ethnographical Survey of the Native Population of the Valley of Southern Yenisei*, Minusinsk, 1900, p. 18.

[3] M. A. Castrén, *Nordische Reisen und Forschungen*, vol. IV, pp. 83-6; D. Carruthers, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 20, 52-5, 200; vol. V, pp. 116-17.